

Michigan Department of Community Health Michigan Oral Health Program Overview

Program Description:

The focus of the Oral Health Program is to improve the oral health of the Michigan's residents. Technical assistance and statewide coordination for oral health programs are provided to local health departments and other community agencies. Collaborating with other programs and developing good liaison relationships, both within Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and with professional dental and public health groups, are also important parts of this process.

Funding: (FY 2005-2006)

Sources: \$335,400 Federal (Maternal and Child Health Grant)
 \$150,000 Healthy Michigan Fund
 \$151,000 General Fund
 \$222,376 CDC Infrastructure Grant (2004 – 2008)
 \$858,776 Total

Allocation Methodology:

Federal, Healthy Michigan Fund and General Fund:

- The budget legislation appropriates the Healthy Michigan Fund allocation to the Donated Dental Services Program administered through the Michigan Dental Association (MDA). General Funds support the Developmentally Disabled Dental Program managed through Delta Dental. Federal Maternal and Child Health Grant support 8 local health department dental clinics.

CDC Infrastructure Grant:

- Contract positions for full-time Sealant, Fluoridation Education Coordinator and 50%-time for an Epidemiologist.
- Oral Health Coalition support.
- Oral Health Program infrastructure development

Target Populations:

- Community Water Fluoridation – 37% of Michigan residents do not receive the decay-preventing benefits of community water fluoridation.
- Dental Sealants – Children who lack access to dental sealants are at high risk for occlusal caries
- Primary Dental Care – Dentally underserved school-age children, Early Head Start and the Head Start population, WIC population, Developmentally Disabled, Persons with Disabilities, Medicaid eligible clients, the uninsured or underinsured, and the elderly.

Oral Health Delivery System:

Local Services Access:

- Fifty one local agencies, including local health departments, primary care centers, migrant health clinics, and Indian Health Services (IHS) conduct public health dental programs. These centers include 20 Federally Qualified Health Centers, 13 local health departments with 27 clinics, and 4 Native American dental clinics.
- Eight community health department programs are supported to provide dental care to dentally underserved children and adults in multiple county areas.
- Other programs are funded locally, through fee-for-service collection, Medicaid, private foundations, and federal funding (IHS, primary care, and migrant health).
- Approximately 17, 000 children in non-fluoridated communities participate in the school-based Weekly Fluoride Mouthrinse Program.

Donated Dental Services:

A network of volunteer dentists provides dental care to persons who are mentally and physically handicapped, who are medically compromised, or who are elderly and indigent. The Donated Dental Services program, supported through \$131,000 of the Healthy Michigan Fund, provides service and treatment coordination. In 2005, 426 people received over \$1 million worth of dental and dental laboratory services. Client acceptance is very limited as time on the waiting list for most areas exceeds 2 years.

Developmental Disabilities Oral Health Program:

A dental treatment fund provides dental care for persons with developmental disabilities who do not have Medicaid coverage. The \$151,000 allotted through General Funds are generally exhausted with the first quarter of the fiscal year.

The following oral health programs are not managed or funded by the Oral Health Program:

- **Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits:** In 2005 dental benefits for eligible Medicaid clients were reinstated at 2003 rates.
- **Child and Healthy Kids Dental:** MiChild is a health coverage program using State and Federal funds to furnish health care coverage to a targeted population. As of November 2004, there were 34,209 children aged 0-18 enrolled in MI Child. On May 1, 2006 Healthy Kids Dental was expanded to include 59 of 83 counties.
- **Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)** provides dental services to their eligible children and adults with hemophilia and cystic fibrosis.
- **Michigan Dental Program:** The Michigan Dental Program (MDP) covers dental care for persons living with HIV/AIDS who qualify for the program

Services Provided:

Consultation, technical assistance, and program coordination are provided on many oral health programs and issues, including:

- School-based/School-linked dental and sealant programs
- Public Act 161
- Fluoride Rinse and Varnish programs
- Tobacco cessation
- Baby bottle tooth decay
- Early Head Start, Head Start programs
- Periodontal disease
- Oral health/systemic disease links
- Nursing home dental in-service
- Fluorides – community water fluoridation, school fluoride mouthrinse programs, fluoride varnish, and fluoride supplements
- Oral cancer
- Access to preventive and remedial dental disease programs
- MIOSHA/OSHA Regulations

Oral Health Information and Publications:

Oral Health Coalition: Comprised of over 200 members representing dental and health professionals, educational institutions, insurance providers, business, and other interested stakeholders. The Mission of the Coalition is: “To improve oral health in Michigan by focusing on prevention, health promotion, surveillance, access and the link between oral health and total health”. For more information visit the following website:

<http://www.mpca.net/oralhealthcoalition/oralhealthcoalition.htm>

Michigan Geriatric Dentistry Coalition: A new coalition designed to address the dental needs of the aging population.

“A Plan of Action for Improving the Oral Health Status of Michigan Residents”: The State Oral Health Plan became part of the oral health strategy to improve the oral health status of Michigan’s residents. For more information visit the following website: <http://michigan.gov/oralhealth>

“Burden of Oral Disease in Michigan, 2005”: A report summarizing the current status of oral health in Michigan and establishes a documented burden of disease, disparities in disease and access, and comparisons between Michigan and national data. For more information visit the following website: <http://michigan.gov/oralhealth>

“Michigan Oral Health Program Directory”: A listing of public health agencies by county.

“Count Your Smiles” Survey: A survey of a sampling of approximately 2000 3rd grade children in 76 schools throughout Michigan for sealant placement and caries prevalence. Statistical results will be posted on the following website when complete: <http://michigan.gov/oralhealth>

MI Oral Health Fact Sheets: Sealant Placement, Fluoride Varnish, and Community Water Fluoridation. Refer to the oral health website: <http://michigan.gov/oralhealth>

Brochures and Web-Training: Oral health brochures and web-training mini-courses s are being developed and will be posted on the oral health website.

The Oral Health Program is seeking funding and support opportunities for growth and long-term sustainability. Continued support is needed for local agencies to build capacity and increase access to oral health care for under-served populations, including those who are low income, uninsured or Medicaid eligible. Dental services for persons with disabilities are often very difficult to access, especially those who are Medicaid eligible. There are a limited number of providers who are comfortable treating this population and even fewer who will accept Medicaid fees. The need to increase Medicaid providers across the state remains a priority.

Considerable statewide efforts are needed to assist Michigan in achieving the standards set forth by Healthy People 2010 and the State Oral Health Plan. Improvements in insurance coverage or Medicaid reimbursement rates alone will not solve the oral disease burden. Additional health promotional efforts such as school-based/school-linked sealant programs, community fluoridation programs, fluoride varnish programs for Early Head Start and Head Start, and WIC intervention programs are necessary for the integration of oral health as a component to overall health and well-being. The Healthy Kids Dental Program expansion to all counties and a similar program modeled for adults are needed. Efforts must continue to engage pediatricians, physicians, nurses and other health professionals in dental health awareness and promotion of dental health as a component of good physical health. Children and adults in Michigan should not suffer from pain, loss of employment or school hours, have difficulty chewing food or speaking, or face social decline due to a preventable disease.